

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A modified fibronectin type III (Fn3) molecule comprising a stabilizing mutation of at least one residue involved in an unfavorable electrostatic interaction as compared to a wild-type Fn3, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of Asp 7, Asp 23 or Glu 9 with another amino acid residue.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein Asp 7 or Asp 23, or both, have been substituted with an asparagine (Asn) or lysine (Lys) residue.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein Glu 9 has been substituted with an asparagine (Asn) or lysine (Lys) residue.

8. (Currently amended) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein Asp 7, Asp 23, and Glu 9 have been ~~deleted or~~ substituted with at least one other amino acid residue.

9-53. (Canceled)

54. (New) The Fn3 of claim 1, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of Asp 7, Asp 23 or Glu 9 with a neutral or positively charged amino acid residue.

55. (New) The Fn3 of claim 54, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of Asp 7, Asp 23 or Glu 9 with a neutral amino acid residue.

56. (New) The Fn3 of claim 54, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of Asp 7, Asp 23 or Glu 9 with a positively charged amino acid residue.

57. (New) A modified tenth type III module of fibronectin (FNfn10) molecule comprising a stabilizing mutation of at least one residue involved in an unfavorable electrostatic interaction as compared to a wild-type FNfn10 molecule, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of amino acid residues 7, 9 or 23 with another amino acid residue.

58. (New) The modified FNfn10 of claim 57, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of amino acid residues 7, 9 or 23 with a neutral or positively charged amino acid residue.

59. (New) The modified FNfn10 of claim 58, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of amino acid residues 7, 9 or 23 with a neutral amino acid residue.

60. (New) The modified FNfn10 of claim 58, wherein the stabilizing mutation is a substitution of at least one of amino acid residues 7, 9 or 23 with a positively charged amino acid residue.

61. (New) The modified FNfn10 of claim 58, wherein amino acid residues 7 or 23, or both, have been substituted with an asparagine (Asn) or lysine (Lys) residue.

62. (New) The modified FNfn10 of claim 58, wherein amino acid residue 9 has been substituted with an asparagine (Asn) or lysine (Lys) residue.

63. (New) The modified FNfn10 of claim 57, wherein amino acid residues 7, 9 and 23 have been substituted with at least one other amino acid residue.